

SUPPLEMENT # 79
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39
 Homicide No. 3367
 Thursday, April 4, 1968, 6:00 P.M.

REPORTED BY: LT. W. J. SCHULTZ
 LT. J. B. WILLIAMS

On April 17, 1968, on instructions of Capt. R. A. Cochran, we contacted Insp. Jimmy Wilkins, Communications Director, in regards to obtaining the tapes of the broadcast made over the Police Radio, at the time Dr. Martin Luther King was fatally shot at the Lorraine Motel. Permission was obtained from Assistant Chief W. W. Wilkins, for the transcription of these tapes. Ptl. R. J. Freeman, of the Administrative Services Division, did obtain his tape recorder from his home, and loaned it to the investigating officers for the purpose of playing these tapes.

The following transmissions were taken from the dictaphone recordings of radio transmissions on April 4, 1968, and are transcribed to the best ability of the listeners to read the transmissions. The following transcript is of Frequency-2, with Frequency-1 to be transcribed later in this report.

38 The crossing is clear just south of Poplar.
 37 In Service, returning.
 Disp. 37 in service, (6:01)
 35 In service.
 Disp. 35 in service, (6:01)
 38 In service.
 Disp. 38 in service, (6:02)
 Tact. 10 (Inaudible) Tact. 10
 38 Mr. Morish is blocked
 Tact. 10 Tact. 10
 Disp. Go ahead, Tact. 10.
 Tact. 10 We have information that King has been shot at the Lorraine.
 Disp. Repeat your information again, Tact. 10.
 Tact. 10 We have information that King has been shot at the Lorraine, (6:03 P.M.).
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, show you on the call.
 Disp. Tact. 9 and Tact. 8, pull into the Lorraine, report of a shooting.
 Disp. Tact. 9
 Tact. 9 Tact. 9
 Disp. Tact. 8
 Tact. 8 Tact. 8
 Disp. Any cruisers on the air in the vicinity of the Lorraine, 406 Mulberry?
 Tact. 10 On scene on Mulberry.
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, (6:03 P.M.)
 Tact. 10 We are close by, we are in that.

RE: Transmissions taken from Memphis
 Police Department Radio Tapes

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Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, (6:04 P.M.), any other
 232 (Inaudible)
 228 On scene, (6:04 P.M.).
 Disp. All cars on the Lorraine Motel call
 cars are to remain in the cars until
 remain in the cars until it has been
 Tact. 10 He has been shot.
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10 advised that King has
 Tact. 11 Do you want us to pull down?
 Disp. Check, Tact. 11, pull down.
 Tact. 11 Okay, Tact. 11.
 Disp. Signal "Q", signal "Q".
 Disp. All Tact units on the call, you are
 You are to form a ring around the Lorraine
 No traffic, no pedestrian traffic, 1
 Motel. A ring is to be formed around
 245 In the area.
 Disp. Check, 245. Any 200 cars in the Lorraine?
 247 In area.
 Disp. Check, 247, (6:05 P.M.)
 365 In area.
 Disp. Check, 365, (6:05 P.M.)
 232 On scene.
 Disp. 232 is on the scene, (6:05 P.M.)
 224 224
 Disp. Go ahead, 224.
 224 We're in the loop, put us on that call.
 Disp. Okay, 224, (6:05 P.M.)
 Tact. 10 We have information that the shot was
 (correction) directly west from Lorraine
 Disp. Okay, Tact. 10. Tact. 10 has informed
 building directly across from the Lorraine
 from the Lorraine. On the east side
 Tact. 17 In the area.
 Disp. Tact. 17 in the area, (6:06 P.M.)
 Tact. 10 That building is west of the Lorraine
 Disp. OK, this will be the building west of
 the building west of the Lorraine. T
 fired. (6:06 P.M.)
 Disp. All Arson Station cars. All Arson
 the Detail cars in station on P.D. All
 M.I. Station cars 11/11

from Memphis
Radio Tapes

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Disp. Jimmy
he broadcast
ly shot at
wildfire, for
ative Services
he investigating

radio trans-
listeners to
Frequency-1

6:05 P.M.)

ing.

library?

Disp. Okay, Tact. 18, (6:04 P.M.), any other cars in the area?

232 (Inaudible)

228 On scene, (6:04 P.M.).

Disp. All cars on the Lorraine Hotel call, we have received another call on it. cars are to remain in the cars until it has been verified. All men are to remain in the cars until it has been verified. (6:04 P.M.)

Tact. 10 He has been shot.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10 advised that King has been shot, (6:04 P.M.)

Tact. 11 Do you want us to pull down?

Disp. Check, Tact. 11, pull down.

Tact. 11 Okay, Tact. 11.

Disp. Signal "Q", Signal "Q".

Disp. All Tact units on the call, you are to form a ring around Lorraine Hotel. You are to form a ring around the Lorraine Hotel. No one is to enter or leave the area, no pedestrian traffic, is to enter or leave the area at the Lorraine Hotel. A ring is to be formed around the hotel as soon as possible. (6:05 P.M.)

245 In the area.

Disp. Check, 245. Any 200 cars in the loop to make the call?

247 In area.

Disp. Check, 247, (6:05 P.M.)

365 In area.

Disp. Check, 365, (6:05 P.M.)

232 On scene.

Disp. 232 is on the scene, (6:05 P.M.)

224 224.

Disp. Go ahead, 224.

224 We're in the loop, put us on that call.

Disp. Okay, 224, (6:05 P.M.)

Tact. 10 We have information that the shot came from a brick building directly east as (correction) directly west from Lorraine.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10. Tact. 10 has information that the shot was from a brick building directly across from the Lorraine. Be on the east side directly across from the Lorraine. On the east side from a brick building. (6:06)

Tact. 17 In the area.

Disp. Tact. 17 in the area, (6:06 P.M.)

Tact. 10 That building is west of the Lorraine.

Disp. OK, this will be the building west of the Lorraine. The circle is to include the building west of the Lorraine. The brick building from where the shot was fired. (6:06 P.M.)

Disp. All Armour Station cars. All Armour Station cars to switch to the P-1. Only the Detail cars to remain on P-2. All Armour Station cars to switch to the P-1. (6:06 P.M.)

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Robt. 9 Robt. 9 in service.

Disp. Robt. 9 switch to F-1 (6:06)

Disp. All units, 150 advise all Task Units to seal this area off completely. All units, 150 advise all Task Units to seal this area off completely. (6:06)

Tact. 10 Tact. 10

Disp. Go ahead, Tact. 10.

Tact. 10 I have the weapon in front of 424 and the subject ran south on Main Street.

Disp. South on Main, the subject responsible for the shooting is running south on Main Street. 424 has the weapon at 424 Main, and the subject ran south from that location. (6:07 P.M.)

Tact. 11 We're on Butler, east of Mulberry, we will cover this area.

365 We are at St. Paul and Main.

Disp. Okay, 365 is at St. Paul and Main. The other car repeat.

Disp. Not to touch the weapon. The weapon is not to be touched. (6:07 P.M.) Repeating, the information, the subject ran south on Main from 424, any physical description on the subject?

Tact. 10 All we know is he is a young white male, well dressed, dark colored, (David)

Disp. He's a young white male, a young white male, well dressed, a young white male well dressed, ran south from 424 S. Main, (6:08)

Car 16 Car 16 in service.

Disp. 16 in service, and switch to the F-1.

Tact. 12 In area cruising.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 12, (6:08 P.M.) Tact. 12, you are advised to take up a position and seal the area.

Tact. 12 Okay.

230 In area.

Disp. Is that 230?

230 Check, 230.

Disp. Okay, 230.

Henry 16 Responding to call at the Lorraine Hotel.

Disp. Okay, Henry 16, 201 is on the call, (6:08 P.M.)

236 In area.

Disp. Check, 236, (6:08 P.M.)

Tact. 6 In area.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 6, (6:08 P.M.)

Tact. 12 Main and Butler

Disp. Okay, Tact. 12, is in position at Main and Butler, (6:09 P.M.)

Disp. Any car needing the loop lights?

Tact. 6 We need them.

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Disp. Okay, you have the loop lights clear, (6:09 P.M.)

Tact. 10 Tact. 10

Disp. Tact. 10, ambulance on the way

315 Phil. Wolfe is in the Fire Dept

Disp. Okay, the Fire Department has ambulance, all Task Units are into the area.

Tact. 10 It's also believed that this is north on Main.

Disp. Information that subject maybe white Mustang, north on Main 8 have on the subject, a young white Mustang, went north on N

Tact. 6 Cleared lights.

Disp. Tact. 6, repeat.

Tact. 6 Cleared the lights.

Disp. Any other car needing lights?

Tact. 17 Main and Butler.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 17, (6:10)

370 In loop, checking.

Disp. Okay, 370, you are advised to

Tact. 9 On scene, Lorraine Hotel.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 9, (6:10 P.M.)

Tact. 8 At Lorraine.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 8, (6:10 P.M.)

150 Keep some of those Task Units

Disp. Couple of Task Units to reach

Tact. 6 We will be cruising.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 6, will be cruising

Disp. Tact. 15, location.

Tact. 15 Sumner and Holmes, en route.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 15, take St. Joe

Tact. 15 St. Joe?

Disp. Check, St. Joe Hospital, 374

Tact. 15 Okay, 15

Disp. Only description this time, a 424 S. Main and seen running; may be in a late model white

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Disp. Negative, reporters are to be withheld at this time, (6:21)

Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.

Disp. Cars attention, cars on the Lorraine Hotel, cars to switch to the F-2 frequency, all Tact Units on the F2 frequency, cars not on the call, to switch to F-1, (6:22)

367 367 on the scene.

Disp. 367 on the scene, (6:22)

Disp. Repeating the information we have at this time on the shooting at 406 Mulberry, a young well dressed white male, dark hair, possibly black, a dark suit, it's also possibly black, medium heavy build. He was seen walk from 424 S. Main, possibly connected a late model white Mustang, was seen north on Main, (6:23)

Tact. 7 Tact. 7

Disp. Go ahead Tact. 7.

Tact. 7 Do you have any description on a license number on this Mustang?

Disp. No Tact. 7, a late model Mustang is all we have at this time.

Tact. 7 Repeat.

Disp. A late model white Mustang is all the information we have.

George 9 George 9 special at St. Joseph.

Disp. Is that George 9 at the St. Joseph?

George 9 Check.

Disp. Okay, George 9, John 5, disregard the call, (6:23)

John 5 Okay, John 5

Disp. The car that has the weapon on Main Street, come in with your number.

(Inaudible) Two transmissions, some car saying something about homicide.

Disp. Your number?

Disp. Is that Tact. 10?

Tact. 10 Check.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 10, (6:24)

Tact. 16 Tact. 16, we are at Danny Thomas and Adams, just been stopped by a male who advised us some other subjects had followed that subject in question, north on Danny Thomas Blvd., going north on Thomas from this location.

Disp. Did they get a license number?

Tact. 16 They did not.

Disp. Information that the subject had been followed, subject responsible for the shooting had been followed north on Danny Thomas, and then north on Thomas. North on Danny Thomas and then north on Thomas. In a Mustang, Tact. 16?

Tact. 16 Stand by.

Disp. Okay, Sheriff's Department to copy. They went north on Thomas from the vic of Parkway, (6:25)

413 413 in service.

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Disp. 413 switch to F-1, 413 in service (6:25)

Tact. 16 They are unable to give any description, just question.

Disp. Okay, advised the subject responsible for the from the parking, (6:25)

Disp. Tact. 16, how long ago was that?

Tact. 16 Just a few ago.

Disp. Okay, they did advise Thomas?

Tact. 16 Check, said they went north.

Disp. Okay, information they went north on Adams.

Tact. 17 Area of Thomas and Chelsea, cruising.

Disp. Tact. 17?

Tact. 17 Check.

Disp. Okay, Tact. 17, (6:26)

Disp. 101T

Disp. 68 pull up to the city limits.

Disp. 17 Chelsea and Watkins.

Disp. 101T

100 100

Disp. 100

100 Go ahead to 101, he's answering you.

Disp. (Inaudible) Stand by.

Tact. 9 I have Rev. Middlebrook, and Rev. Jackson down to go in.

Disp. Rev. Middlebrook and Rev. Jackson?

Tact. 9 Check, Tact. 9.

Disp. 150, Tact. 9 has Rev. Jackson and Middlebrook up there, are they to be admitted?

150 Check, that's all right.

Tact. 9 Okay, Tact. 9.

Disp. 100, 100, the Governor wants to know where you

(Inaudible) Transmission from 100.

Disp. Relay that to me.

(Inaudible)

Disp. 150, are you reading that?

150 Repeat 150

Dispatcher Repeat 100, we are not getting you, we wanted it

(Inaudible) From 100

JR., MO, 39.

ney, on April 4, 1968, from

el.

place, okay, 17

It is verified that Ray, King

confirmed that King has been sh-

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155, you are to form a ring around the hotel, form a ring around the hotel, Tact Units are responding. (6:04)

159, I'm moving down on that call.

Okay, 159, 156, pull down.

Okay, 156.

Advise no pedestrian traffic, no traffic is to leave the vicinity of the hotel.

17 in service.

17 in service. (6:05)

2 in service.

Have information this shot came from a brick building, it's a brick building directly east from the Lorraine Hotel. The shot came from the brick building directly east from the Lorraine Hotel. (6:06)

I will move in on that.

Okay.

150

150

Be sure that the Tact Units seal that location off.

Okay, 150.

All units, that's all units, 150 advising all Tact Units are to seal this area off completely. All Tact Units are to seal this area off completely. (6:06)

2 in service.

2 in service. (6:06)

424 has the weapon at 424 S. Main, one of the cars has the weapon at 424 S. Main. The subject responsible ran south on Main, the subject responsible ran south from 406 Main.

Tact 4, pull up.

Tact 4.

140

One say down, 140.

140, stand by, a young white male, well dressed, a young white male well dressed, ran south from 424 S. Main. (6:08)

14 headgear down.

Okay, 14.

155 on the scene.

Okay, 155, (6:08)

In service.

68 in service. (6:08)

416 in the area.

Okay, 416, (6:08)

24 in the area.

Police Board -
Tape - Document -
in 1985